GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services -- Forest Department – Departmental proceedings initiated against Sri B.M. Chanakya Raju, ACF, formerly FRO, Kurnool Range of Kurnool Circle under Rule 20 of APCS (CC&A) Rules 1991 – Punishment of "2% (two percent) cut in pension for a period of one year" against Sri B.M. Chanakya Raju, ACF (Retd.,), formerly FRO, Kurnool Range and to refund an amount of Rs.10,242/- to the Charged Officer – Imposed – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONEMNT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.NO.31 **Dated. 29/05/2023.**

Read the following:

1) From the PCCF(HoFF), A.P., Guntur, Lr Rc.No.5599/2014/A&DC-3, dated 07.08.2018.
2) Memo.No.2775/Sec.IV/A2/2017, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., Dated 05.09.2018.
3) From Sri B.M. Chanakya Raju, ACF (Retd.) formerly FRO, Kurnool Range of Kurnool Division, representation, dated 09.10.2018.
4) From the PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Guntur, Lr.Rc.No.5599/2014/A&DC-3, dated 04.11.2018.
5) Cir.Memo.No.670365/Ser.C/2018, G.A. (Ser.C) Dept., dated 06.11.2018.
6) Memo. No.2775/Sec.IV/A2/2017, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 19.11.2018 and consequent reminders dated 03.07.2019.
7) From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, Lr.Rc.No.5599/2014/A&DC-3, dated 02.11.2022.
8) From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, Lr. Ref.no.5599/2014/A&DC-3, dated 19.12.2022.
9) Letter.No.2775/Sec.IV/A2/2017, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., Dated.23.03.2023.
10) From the Secretary, APPSC, Vijayawada, File.No.GAD03-APPS0DCC/39/2023-DC.SEC-APPSC (Computer No.2039598). Dated 27.04.2023.

ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., has reported that an Article of Charge was issued to Sri B.M. Chanikya Raju, Assistant Conservator of Forests formerly Forest Range Officer, Kurnool Range of Kurnool (T) Division of Kurnool Circle, by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur in Ref. No.5599/2014/Vig-1, dated 16.08.2016 on the following count:-

Article:	"That the said Sri B.M. Chanikya Raju, has grossly neglected his legitimate duties and allowed the lower staff to book an amount of Rs.2,31,460/- irregularly without execution of work under CAMPA-NPV-13th Finance Commission (FDA) & XI FDA Scheme during the year 2011-12."

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the Article of Charge on 22.08.2016 and submitted his explanation on 30.08.2016. Not satisfied with his explanation, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur appointed Chief Conservator of Forests, Kurnool as Inquiry Officer

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and Divisional Forest Officer, Kurnool as Presenting Officer vide Proc. No.5599/2014/Vig-1,(i&ii), dated 21.06.2017 respectively, for conducting regular enquiry.

3. The Chief Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests, Kurnool and Inquiry Officer conducted the Inquiry submitted findings vide CCF., KNL Rc.No.7438/2012-M1, dated 16.08.2017, in which he concluded that the Charge leveled against that Charged Officer is held as "**PARTLY PROVED".**

4. The findings of the Inquiry Officer were communicated to the Charged Officer vide PCCF's letter Ref.No.5599/2014/A&DC-1, dt.18.10.2017, and called for further defence statement. The Charged Officer has submitted the dated acknowledgement to the final notice on 06.11.2017, and submitted his further defence statement on 11.11.2017. On verification, it is noticed that the retired Charged Officer has not put-forth any valid / fresh points.

5. On the clarification sought by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., the Chief Conservator of Forests, Kurnool while furnishing his remarks to the PCCF & HoFF has submitted that initially an amount of Rs.2,31,460/- was found to be irregular expenditure incurred without execution of the work under CAMPA-NPV-13th Finance Commission (FDA) & XI FDA Scheme during the year 2011-12. But after verification of connected records and due enquiry by the Inquiry Officer, it is revealed that the Charged Officer is no way concerned with the planting as he had got executed only advance works. But, loss of Rs.2,31,460/- was arrived based on the planting points and apportioned among the staff. The Charged Officer i.e., Sri B. M. Chanakya Raju is responsible for allowing the excess expenditure of Rs.95,246/- only. The Charged Officer had already remitted more than his share towards the excess expenditure. As per the report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Kurnool(T), the responsibility will be fixed on the persons responsible towards the planting and action will be initiated against them for recovery of the Government loss.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., has submitted the proposal to Government, requesting to dispose of the disciplinary proceedings initiated against him as per Rule 9(2) of A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980, since the Charged Officer i.e., Sri B. M. Chanakya Raju, ACF has retired from service on attaining the age of superannuation on 31.07.2017.

7. After careful examination of the entire matter, Government have taken a provisional decision to impose a penalty of "**2% cut (Two percent) in pension for a period of one year"** against Sri B.M. Chanakya Raju, ACF(Retd.), formerly Forest Range Officer, Kurnool Range of Kurnool Circle, for the charge held partly proved, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules,1980. Accordingly, a show-cause notice was issued to the Charged Officer in the Memo. 2nd read above. In the letter 3rd read above, the Charged Officer submitted his explanation to the show-cause notice, in which he agreed with the provisional decision of the Government and the same was informed by the PCCF & HoFF in the letter 4th read above.

8. On examination of the Inquiry Report and other records, it is observed that there is a short fall in the area of 8.23 Ha. and involving a financial loss of Rs.95,246/- for which the charged officer is collectively responsible along with the subordinate staff. Out of 3 charged officers involved in the case, the concerned Forest Beat Officer was expired and his share was apportioned between the Forest Section Officer and Forest Range Officer

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(Sri B.M. Chanakya Raju) i.e., 50% each, as per the orders issued G.O.Ms.No.110, EFS&T Dept., 29.11.2016. Out of the amount of Rs. 95,246/- towards loss caused to Government, the Charged Officer Sri B. M. Chanakya Raju has already remitted an amount of Rs.57,865/- towards his share and he has to be refunded an amount of Rs. 10,242/- (Rs. 57,865/- minus Rs. 47,623/-).

9. Therefore, the Government have decided to impose a penalty of 2% (two percent) cut in pension for period of one year against the charged officer, Sri B. M. Chanakya Raju, ACF (Retd.,) formerly FRO, Kurnool Range and to refund an amount of Rs. 10,242/- to the charged officer to avoid further legal complications, in view of the directions of the APAT in O.A.No.1131/2017, dated 01.11.2018.

10. On communication, in the letter 10th read above, the Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Vijayawada has agreed with the proposal of the Government to impose the penalty of "2% (two percent) cut in pension for a period of one year" against Sri B.M. Chanakya Raju, ACF (Retd.,), formerly FRO, Kurnool Range and to refund an amount of Rs.10,242/- to the charged officer and advised accordingly.

11. After careful examination of the entire matter, Government hereby order to impose a punishment of "2% (two percent) cut in pension for a period of one year" against Sri B.M. Chanakya Raju, ACF (Retd.,), formerly FRO, Kurnool Range and to refund an amount of Rs.10,242/- to the charged officer under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules 1980.

12. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri B.M. Chanakya Raju, ACF (Retd.,), formerly FRO, Kurnool Range (through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF,A.P., Guntur)
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur. (w.e., i.e. connected record File.No.7438/2012/M1, pages 1-405).

Copy to
The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
The OSD to M (Energy, EFS&T, Mines & Geology).
The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The PS to the Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department.
SF/SC (Computer No.1904584)

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER